

Ministerie van Onderwijs, Cultuur en Wetenschap

>Retouradres Postbus 16375 2500 BJ Den Haag

To all prospective vwo, havo and mbo-4 graduates
and their parents/guardians on Bonaire, St. Eustatius and Saba

**Hoger Onderwijs en
Studiefinanciering**
IPC 2250

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Den Haag
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2500 BJ Den Haag
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Tel: 1400

Contactpersoon

Date

Re Studying next year? Important information about registering

Onze referentie
835916

Dear prospective students,

Are you going to study next year? Then please read this letter carefully. It contains important information about your choice of study, registration at higher education institutions and Study Financing

Choose carefully

Explore the options for your study well. Talk to your vocational adviser, mentor or tutor. Because you live far from the Netherlands it is not always possible to attend open houses. However, you can also explore your options via the websites of the schools of higher vocational education and universities. You can also visit the Education and Jobs Fair on Bonaire on 14 November.

Independent information on open houses, training courses, opportunities on the labour market, opinions of students in higher education and much more can be found on www.studiekeuze123.nl. And www.startstuderen.nl contains practical information such as a checklist for what you need to arrange before you go study. Studiekeuze123 has a page on "Studia na Hulanda"¹ (under the heading 'Over studeren' on the website) and many schools of higher vocational education and universities have also included specific information for students from the Caribbean part of the Kingdom.

Studying in the region

Are you going to study in the Caribbean Netherlands, Aruba, St. Maarten, America or in the Caribbean region? Then you can receive 'Studiefinanciering BES' (student finance) via RCN-Studiefinanciering. Studiefinanciering BES comprises a performance grant and a possible loan. If you obtain your diploma in time, you do not need to repay the performance grant. The loan should always be repaid *with* interest.

If you do not obtain a diploma or you do not obtain your diploma in time, then you should also repay the performance grant, including interest.

For more information about Studiefinanciering BES please visit www.rijksdienstcn.com/studiefinanciering.

¹ <http://www.studiekeuze123.nl/antillen>

Students who go to Aruba or Curaçao for their studies qualify for guidance from one of the mentors on the islands. This is arranged via RCN-Study Financing.

Studying in the European Netherlands

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Register in time: on 1 May 2016 at the latest

Have you made your choice? Then register as soon as possible via www.studielink.nl but make sure that you do so by 1 May 2016 at the latest, even if you do not have a diploma yet. A school of higher vocational education or university is not obliged to accept you if you register after that date. For training courses which select students, you often need to register as early as 15 January at the latest. Therefore you should already check the final registration date on the website of the school of higher vocational education or university now. If you want to take a gap year, please bear in mind that as of 2017 studies with more registrations than admissions will no longer draw lots. For these studies you will then have to register by 15 January at the latest in order to be able to participate in the decentralised selection. As of the academic year 2017-2018 reserved admissions [so-called *ministersplaatsen*] will no longer be available for the Caribbean parts of the Kingdom.

DigiD

Since you do not have a DigiD, you should select the option 'Inloggen via Studielink' [log in via Studielink] on the Studielink website, instead of 'Inloggen via DigiD' [log in via DigiD].

Choice of study check

After your timely registration for a study in the European Netherlands, you are entitled to a study check and a recommendation by the institution. What the check will look like, differs per institution. It could be a conversation, trial classes, a digital questionnaire or something else. In this process the educational institution is obliged to take into account the fact that you are currently still living outside the European Netherlands. If the institution does not offer a study check, you can ask for it, you are entitled to it. The institution is not allowed to reject you if you have participated in the study check, they can only do this when you have registered too late.

Schools of higher vocational education and universities may oblige you to participate in the study check. If you refuse to do so, the institute is not obliged to admit you to the study. Therefore you should ask whether the study check is mandatory and what the consequences are if you do not participate.

If you still wish to choose another training/course after the study check, you can do so. Because you have registered in Studielink on 1 May at the latest, you maintain your right of admission to another study. So there is no need to register for multiple studies to be on the safe side .

Extra admission requirements

Check on the website of your study or on www.studiekeuze123.nl (the 'toelating en kosten' [admission and costs] tab of your study) whether extra admission requirements apply, such as a profile, certain subjects (secondary education) or a study in a certain field (intermediate vocational education).

For instance, you are no longer automatically entitled to enter a university study after having successfully completed the first year of a higher vocational course.

The Pabo [teacher training for primary education] has also set extra requirements. Check on www.goedvoorbereidnaardepabo.nl to see what requirements are set and how you can prepare to meet them.

Physical impairment

Do you have a physical impairment? Then you should contact the institution of your choice as soon as possible and ask them which provisions are in place. Please visit www.handicap-studie.nl for a list of arrangements which are useful for you in the European Netherlands.

Apply for Study Financing for your study in the Netherlands

Via www.duo.nl/antillen you can apply for Study Financing. You should apply for Study Financing at least 3 months prior to your departure to the Netherlands. As soon as you are in the Netherlands, you should register with the municipality. The municipality will give you a social security number. Subsequently you should immediately pass on your social security number and your address to Dienst Uitvoering Onderwijs (DUO).

Study Financing for a study in higher education (higher vocational education and university) comprises a student travel product for everyone, a possible supplementary grant² and the opportunity to apply for a loan. For a study at intermediate vocational education level, Study Financing comprises a basic grant and a student travel product for everyone, a possible supplementary grant and the opportunity to apply for a loan. You take out a loan with DUO under favourable conditions. This loan is not obligatory. You yourself decide whether you borrow money and how much money you borrow. The calculator on www.startstudereren.nl/rekenhulp can help you with this. Whatever you borrow, you will pay back after you have completed your study, based on your financial capacity.

If you go to the Netherlands for your studies, you will be faced with additional costs such as an airline ticket, the purchase of a bike and warm winter clothes. In order to be able to pay these costs, you can receive a lump-sum payment from RCN-Study Financing. This is called the 'Start-up Allowance'. This allowance consists of a performance grant and a possible loan. The same conditions apply to this allowance as to the Studiefinanciering BES. Please note! If you are going to study at mbo level 1 or 2 in the Netherlands, then you are not entitled to the Start-up Allowance. More information about the Start-up Allowance is available on www.rijksdienstcn.com/studiefinanciering.

Guidance

RCN-Study Financing arranges that students who go to the European Netherlands for their studies receive guidance. Currently this guidance is provided by BESST. BESST will arrange an airline ticket and accommodation for you as well as insurances. BESST also arranges a personal mentor for you in the Netherlands. Please visit www.besst.nl for more information. It is not known yet what party will take care of the guidance in the next academic year.

I wish you lots of success with your final exams and all the wisdom needed to make a good study choice!

Kind regards,

² You can calculate whether you qualify for a supplementary grant via www.duo.nl/studiepunt/rekenhulp/studiefinanciering/.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Science,

[signature]

dr. Jet Bussemaker

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